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Educational Attainment and Spanish Maintenance: A Study of the Hispanic Populations of Chicago and the United States

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Oral Presentation O4.4

**EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT AND SPANISH MAINTENANCE: A STUDY OF THE
HISPANIC POPULATIONS OF CHICAGO AND THE UNITED STATES**

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With the recent growth of the Hispanic population in the U.S., it is important to study its integration into a majority English-speaking society in order to better understand the social effects of Spanish language maintenance. This study examines the correlation between the Hispanic population's educational attainment and its maintenance of native Spanish. Chicago Hispanics are the focus of this study due in part to the lack of current investigations of this population. This sub-population is then compared to the U.S. Hispanic population as a whole, using data collected from the Public Use Microdata Sample of the 2005-2007 American Community Survey, which includes 2,726 Chicago participants and 202,390 U.S. participants. The data show that the American educational system may not support native Spanish-speakers and suggests that they assimilate linguistically before they are given the opportunity to advance their level of education.